



## Mr. Benjamin W. Robbins

October 2, 1924 - December 26, 2014

Benjamin William Robbins, 90, of 9 Hyatt St, Cortland passed away peacefully at Groton Nursing Home on Friday December 26, 2014. Ben was born on October 2, 1924 in Truxton, N.Y. where lived on the Robbins family farm with his four brothers and three sisters. Being the youngest son he remained on the farm helping his father while his brothers served in World War II. He moved to Cortland after marrying Josephine DiRosa in 1944. Ben had several sales positions before purchasing the Pepsi franchise in 1954. For 15 years Ben was the sole Pepsi distributor for the City of Cortland and Cortland County. "Pepsi hits the spot" and through his hard work and determination his business grew from a one man-one delivery truck operation to eventually three trucks and several employees. In 1969 Ben sold the business and began working at S.U.N.Y. Cortland where he stayed until he retired.

During his lifetime he was very active in the community serving as President of the Lions Club and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Ben and Josephine were lifelong members of the Moose Lodge. Ben enjoyed spending time with his family at the cottage on Bradley Brook and traveling with his wife.

Ben is survived by his three daughters, Cheryl (Peter) Contento and grandchildren, Paul (Liz) Contento and Carrie Contento (Brendan Rew); Judy (Tom) Wilkins and grandchildren, Tyler Wilkins and Rebecca (Aaron) Sprouse; great grandchildren, Benjamin and Ella Sprouse; Kathy (Gerald) Coggi and

grandchildren, Nicole, Michael and Dustin, brother in law, James DiRosa and sister in law, Margaret Robbins and several nieces and nephews. Ben was predeceased by his wife of 69 years, Josephine DiRosa Robbins in May of 2013, his parents, Caleb and Florence Robbins., brothers, Edward, Stanley, Alton and Milton and sisters, Ethel Davis, Marion Nelson, Frances Phelps and grandson, Anthony Contento.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday at 11 a.m. In St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church with Rev. Joseph Zareski serving as celebrant. Prayers of committal will follow in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. The family will be present to receive friends on Monday from 4-7 p.m. in the Chapel of Riccardi Funeral Home 69 N. Main St. Cortland. Contributions in Ben's memory may be made to St. Anthony's Church 59 N. Main St. Cortland, N.Y. 13045 or the S.P.C.A. Condolences may also be sent to the family by visiting [www.riccardifuneralhome.com](http://www.riccardifuneralhome.com)

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure."

Corinthians 13:7

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ *What a true gentleman your dad was! It was our honor to help in his care and to witness the love your family provided to him each and every day. Hugs from all the staff at Groton Community Health Care Center.*

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**Liza Burger** - May 18, 2018 at 11:08 AM

DH

“ *So sad to hear about Ben. He is missed.*

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**David and Arleen Hubbard** - May 18, 2018 at 11:08 AM

AP

“ *To all of you, esp to the daughters and my friend Jerry Coggi, sorry to hear of the passing of your dear family member. He was always the best smile in church as he sat years ago when I lived near by, in front of Mother and I. It was a true St. Anthony's family, that I will miss dearly too. Blessings to all of you from me and my son. Amy Tutino Piatak Orlando Fl*

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**Amy Tutino Piatak** - May 18, 2018 at 11:08 AM

JH

“ *Kathy, I fondly remember your Dad as such a kind, warm man. He always had a welcoming smile and an inviting way about him. Both of your parents were a pleasure to be around. I'm sorry for you, Judy, Cheryl and your entire family's loss. I hope for comfort and peace for you all during such a difficult, emotional time.*

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**Jody Stokoe Horsman** - May 18, 2018 at 11:08 AM